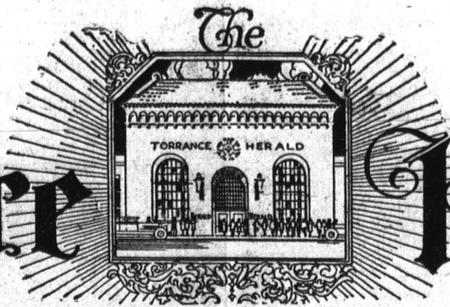


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NINETEENTH YEAR—No. 13

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1933

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\$1,500,000 PLANT READY TO OPEN CLEAR WAY FOR BEER SALES IN TORRANCE APR. 7

WETS WIN OVER DRYS IN HOT BATTLE OVER CITY ORDINANCE

Guy Mowry, Teacher, Threatens Recall of Councilmen Who Favor Repeal of Dry Ordinance

The sale of legalized 3.2 percent beer and wine in Torrance after midnight of April 6 was assured Tuesday night, when the city council after a heated and bitter debate between "wet" and "dry" factions, voted 3 to 2 for the repeal of those portions of the present city ordinance No. 18, prohibiting the sale or transportation of beverages containing over one-half of one percent alcohol. The repeal ordinance was approved for first reading, and the council adjourned until next Tuesday, April 4, when final action is to be taken.

A number of business men have been asked to confer with the city council next Monday evening, April 3, to discuss details of an ordinance for the regulation and control of the sale of newly legalized 3.2 alcoholic beverages. Among the business men appointed by Mayor Klusman to advise with the city council are: George Probert, Manager of Stewart of the Hollywood-Riviera club, Otto Mikelson, Al Harder, Harry Alcorn, Herman W. Steffen, Beverly Smith, Wm. T. Martin of the McDonald Tract, and E. C. Morford of Walteria.

Councilman Ludlow asked City Attorney Jensen for an opinion. Jensen reviewed the history of the present ordinance, which was passed in 1922 and whose terms are similar to the state Wright Act, which was recently repealed by popular vote. The city attorney also stated that the state legislature was working on a bill to regulate the sale of legalized alcoholic beverages. Jensen stated that some authorities held that the repeal of the Wright Act automatically repealed all local ordinances, but that he did not agree with this opinion.

Conner Moves Repeal
The matter was brought to a head when Councilman Conner moved that Ordinance 18 be repealed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, and the argument waxed hot.

Councilman Ludlow asked about restrictions in deeds of property in the Torrance tract.

Wright Is Dry
Councilman Wright entered the argument at this point saying, "You remember I brought up the repeal of this ordinance on November 22 following the general election, and I did not receive a second to my motion. I have never voted wet and I am not ready to do so yet."

Council Requests Another \$33,920 For Unemployed

Grading at Hollywood-Riviera And Removing Trees To Park Among Projects

An additional appropriation of \$29,120 in Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds covering 9100 man days of labor at \$3.20 a day, and a similar request for \$4800 covering 1500 man days of labor from the county welfare department were requested by the Torrance city council at its meeting Tuesday evening.

Income Tax Reports Must Be Filed Friday

The time for filing income tax reports which was extended on account of the bank holiday, will expire on March 31, according to a statement from Galen H. Welch, collector of internal revenue at Los Angeles. Office hours at all the branch offices in various towns in the district will be from 8:30 to 4 p. m. during the remaining days of the month except March 31 when the offices will be kept open until midnight.

Klusman Says Recall Action Is Not Legal

Circulation of Petition Is Abandoned By Wright On Account of Poor Health

Recall action started March 1 against Mayor W. T. Klusman by his fellow councilman, Joseph M. Wright, hit a snag Tuesday night when Mayor Klusman pointed out that the publication of charges was made on a holiday, which in the mayor's opinion invalidated the proceedings. The publication was made March 2, which was the first day of Governor Rolph's banking holiday.

In his talk to the council this week, Mayor Klusman stated that he believed in the principle of the recall, where there is malfeasance in office. He pointed out that he had disagreed with efforts of the municipal league to prohibit the circulation of recall petitions and require signers to come to the city hall to affix their signatures. "I believe in the right to circulate petitions whether it hits me or not," said Klusman, "but the action must be legal."

City's Water Bonds Validated In Decision By Supreme Court

Ludlow's Move to Start Immediate Construction of Units In New Water Plant Delayed By Mayor Klusman

Torrance's dream of a modern municipally-owned water system appeared near realization this week with the announcement that the state supreme court had affirmed the judgment previously given in favor of the city in the lower courts.

The opinion, written by Justice John W. Preston and concurred in by Chief Justice William H. Wate and all five other justices, approves the legality of the \$400,000 water bond issue voted by residents of a section of Torrance in September, 1930, by a 12 to one vote. The favorable decision leaves the way open for the sale of the bonds and the immediate construction of an entirely new water system or the purchase and improvement of the present system.

Mayor of Torrance KOPP KLUSMAN

The above inscription, printed on a typical movie character's tin star "constable's" badge, was presented to Mayor Klusman Tuesday night by Police Commissioner Earl Conner. The presentation came as the result of that Mayor Klusman's complaint that other Southern California mayors possessed official "gold" shields, and they had chided the Torrance chief executive for having to depend upon a plain business card for identification.

\$557,810 BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED TO G. P. THIS WEEK

First Major \$1,500,000 Refinery Unit to Be Completed Within a Week; Many Families Move to Torrance

An additional building permit of \$557,810 was issued this week to the General Petroleum Corporation of California for the completion of its huge \$1,500,000 refinery plant in Torrance, which is the first major unit in the corporation's contemplated \$10,000,000 project. With the \$452,102 permit taken out last December, permits for new construction in Torrance to date total \$1,009,912, all of which will be completed in about a week, officials informed the Herald today.

Units for which permits were issued this week by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard are: Cracking Plant, \$140,150; Pressure Distillate Re-Run Unit, \$127,250; Gasoline Stabilizer Plant, \$129,960; Additional Service for Cracking Unit, \$93,000; and Pressure Distillate Acid Treater, \$67,450.

Already many General Petroleum employees, who have been permanently assigned to duty at the new Torrance plant, have taken up residence in this city and are taking an active part in local affairs. Company officials have shown a very friendly attitude toward Torrance and those close to municipal affairs predict that the company and its large staff of employees can be depended upon to contribute substantially to the future development of Torrance.

Torrance Bonded Debt Is Second Smallest In Co.

Bonded indebtedness of the city of Torrance, second smallest in the county, was reduced another \$2500 last year to an even \$29,000.

The Torrance elementary school was closed Thursday afternoon by order of Mayor W. T. Klusman, and will not re-open until conditions there are remedied so as to make it safe for children to attend.

Termites Swarm After Spring Rain

Termites were swarming in Torrance yesterday following the showers of Tuesday. The little winged ants come out from their hibernation each year following the first spring rains to seek new locations. A dose of fly spray to kill them off during their aerial performance would be likely to do much towards saving property loss, as it is only when they have dug themselves in under the walls and floors of a building that they are capable of doing much damage.

Youths Paroled On Good Conduct

Clarence Carter and Kenneth Rathbun, charged with rape following a raid on an asserted child "love nest" at 2840 236th street, have been released by juvenile authorities on promise of good conduct, court records disclosed today. They will be on probation until they become 21 years of age.

Outfall Sewer Bill Is Killed In Committee

Move to Take Authority From Chief Engineer Is Tabled

Assembly Bill No. 1018, introduced by Assemblyman James J. Boyle of the 66th district, which purported to be an economy measure but which was looked upon by its opponents as a clever move on the part of private interests to block the construction of the outfall sewer, was tabled by the senate committee to which it was referred, and unless some new means can be devised to resuscitate it will probably not come up for action at this session.

Present at the hearing at Sacramento on Monday were Attorney Lloyd Nix, representing the Sepulveda and Bixby interests which are fighting the outfall sewer, Allen Bixby, and Harold Crusan.

Nix, in presenting his arguments in favor of the bill is said to have claimed that he represented the sentiment of the communities of Hawthorne, Whittier and San Pedro, but his arguments were largely nullified when it was pointed out that of the three communities only one, Hawthorne, is a member of the Metropolitan Sanitation districts, and that the other two are consequently not interested parties to the procedure. Personalities injected by Nix were ruled out of order.

Assembly Bill No. 1018, presented as an economy measure, seeks to place the control of the sanitation districts in the hands of the county surveyor, thus eliminating the chief engineer and his staff of workers who are now carrying on the work of the sanitation districts. A further provision of the bill sought to abolish the provision whereby the mayors of the cities included in the various sanitation districts are automatically established members of the board of directors for the district, and would have provided for the election of a director instead.

Close analysis of the bill disclosed that the measure could scarcely qualify as an economy move, since all the work of the engineer's office would be passed over to the county surveyor and would entail the setting up of a separate department in this office to handle the sewer proposition. The sanitation districts are a separate part of the county, the same as the flood control district, and no economical gain could result from transferring control from one board to another.

Representatives of the various sanitation districts who opposed the adoption of the bill and presented arguments on their side of the question at the hearing Monday were Mayor A. E. Fickling of Long Beach, Mayor Harold Pomeroy of South Gate and Robert Shannahan of Huntington Park.

Confusion and Noise of Repairs Make Brief Shutdown Advisable

The Torrance elementary school was closed Thursday afternoon by order of Mayor W. T. Klusman, and will not re-open until conditions there are remedied so as to make it safe for children to attend.

FIRST NATIONAL RE-OPENS J. W. POST IS CONSERVATOR

New Deposits May Be Made With Full Withdrawal Privileges; President of Bank Issues Statement On Reorganization

Appointment of James W. Post, president of the First National Bank of Torrance, as conservator of the local bank was announced yesterday in a telegram received from the comptroller of the currency in Washington, D. C.

By this action, Mr. Post becomes a representative of the federal treasury department, and is entrusted with full responsibility for the conduct of the bank's business. Deposits may now be made with 100 per cent withdrawal privileges, as under the terms of a conservatorship all deposits must be kept in cash or deposited with the Federal Reserve. Other banks in this district operating under a conservator have enjoyed greatly increased deposits, reflecting the added confidence which depositors have in banks so closely supervised by the government.

No authority is given at present, however, to permit the withdrawal of so-called "old deposits" made prior to the banking holiday. The release of these old balances must await the reorganization of the bank, or at least until the treasury department gives its permission.

Bank Problem Being Studied By Committee

At a meeting held in the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday afternoon a group of business men of Torrance, representing the depositors of the First National Bank of Torrance met with the view of formulating some plan to reopen the bank. This group hopes to submit to the depositors a plan which will facilitate the opening of the bank and permit its effective continuance. This committee is interested primarily in the protection of the depositors.

A. E. Witt, office manager of the National Supply Company of California, was unanimously elected chairman of the committee which is making this study.

Torrance Elementary School Ordered Closed By Mayor

The Torrance elementary school was closed Thursday afternoon by order of Mayor W. T. Klusman, and will not re-open until conditions there are remedied so as to make it safe for children to attend.

"We believe that this community needs the bank that has been instrumental in its upbuilding and progress, and therefore, we are coming to the citizens of this community with the utmost confidence that they will enlist themselves in our behalf."